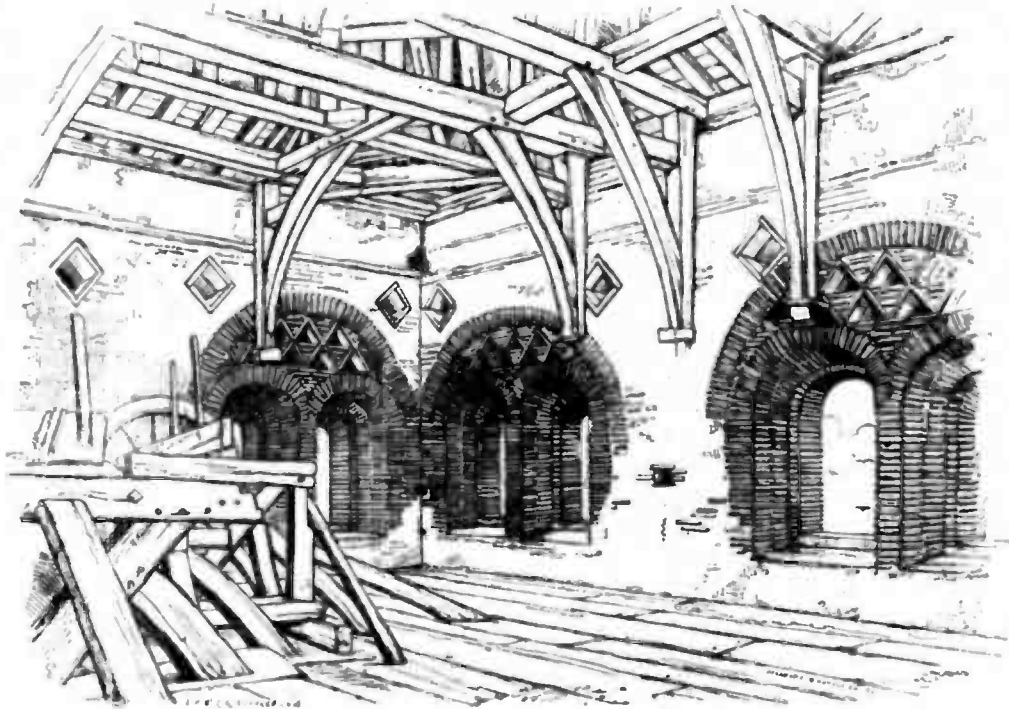
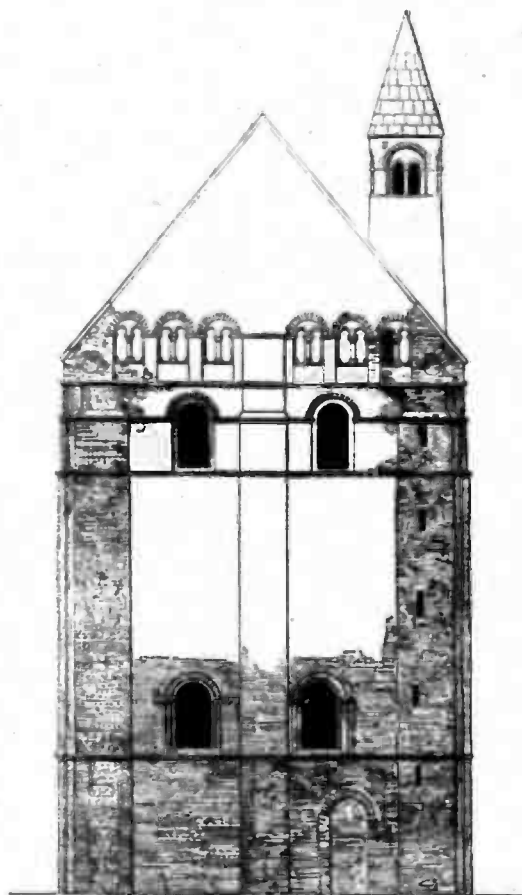


THE EARLY ARCHITECTURE OF ST. ALBAN'S ABBEY CHURCH.



INTERIOR VIEW OF THE BELFRY.



ELEVATION OF NORTH TRANSEPT.

tached to the church in the particular situation referred to."

The Norman portion of the existing edifice was commenced about 1077, on the site of a previous church built in the eighth century, and was dedicated in 1115. When seen in its full proportions, "with its three towers, the central one augmented in height and beauty of appearance by its lofty octagonal lantern and tapering pinnacles," it must have been an imposing edifice, and a striking feature in the landscape. The length in the clear from west to east was 440 feet, terminating in an apse, and the transept from north to south was 176 feet, and had apsidal chapels on the east side.

"The visible remains of the church whose general figure we have just described, are portions of the aisles and side walls of the sanctuary, the transept and lantern tower, three entire bays on each side of the choir, and six on the north side of the nave.

Particular regard seems to have been paid to laying out the plan of the church, and fixing the subdivisions for the positions of the piers; and measurement proves that this part of the work was performed with such ability, that only slight deviations from accuracy and uniformity occur — points which were not to be so easily maintained in carrying up the work. An exception to the former remark must not be overlooked, a regularly increased width having been given to the north transept from its junction with the tower to the opposite extremity; but with respect to the superficies of the walls and pilasters, and their retreating members, obedience to the line and rule was by no means strict; and as the discrepancies in the structure were not concealed by the application of the cement, considerable irregularity is found to prevail upon a near examination of the interior."

Messrs. Buckler remark, "that the subdivision of the width between the walls into nave and aisles was made with considerable attention to exactness, and the result is a handsome proportion in the spaces formed by the piers of the arcades; a line passing through the centre of these in a longitudinal direction, gives to the nave one-half of the entire breadth, the symmetry of the avenues being preserved by the equal division of the piers upon the imaginary limit; but this